

to Russia, even if it all materialises,
falls very far
short of her undoubted requirements."

But if the soldiers were short of arms
and ammunition, our Mission found that the civil
population
was becoming no less short of enthusiasm
for a prolonged conflict. Lord Milner reported :—

" The Russians are in an unhappy frame
of mind
just now—thoroughly disgruntled, from
domestic
causes quite as much as from war-
Civilian weariness. So far from being the
stolid
disaffection unmovable, irresistible
steam-roller
of popular imagination, they are a very
sensitive, impressionable, and almost
mercurial
people. . . . What I do feel is that the
general
discontent and vague unhappiness might
easily turn
into disgust with the War. In short, I
think the
Russians just now need to be very
carefully handled,
especially by the English. . . . Such an
attitude
is all the more called for in view of
Russia's internal
troubles. These are indeed intimately
connected
with her ill-success in the War, but I am
not sure
that Russians themselves are always
quite conscious
of this. . . . When one comes to analyse
these
matters, it is soon apparent that the
root cause,
even of the domestic discontent, is
dissatisfaction
with the course of the War, and bitter
resentment
of the mismanagement—for which the
Government
is held responsible—that has been the
cause of so

many failures."

The incompetence of the Government
was, it is
true, a byword.

The depression which Lord Milner felt
on coming

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